

Private Repudiates Officers Denial Of Prison Camp Abuse

FORMER REPORTER FOR BOSTON NEWS-PAPER RELATES ATROCITIES INFLICTED ON AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

Boston, Aug. 12.—Alvair C. Mahan, former private company A, 101st Infantry who saw the infamous cruelties visited upon helpless prisoners by officers in prison camps comments as follows on the statements made by Captain L. H. Plintom of the United States Marine Corps, former commanding officer of the 30th company of marines while they were on protest duty in Paris, who gave the lie to Sergeant Major Tom Wilkinson and Corporal Edward Cahill of the 101st Infantry, both Division.

There were cases of desertion under fire in the A. E. F. There were isolated cases of rank cowardice. There were rare cases of treason. But nowhere were there such complete denials, as in a statement by the military attaché who was stationed at the military prison at number 10 Rue Sainte Anne, Paris.

His story follows: "I was a prisoner in the place for four days, almost exactly a year ago. My crime was oversteering my leave by two hours, oversteering my 48-hour pass, the first pass any of our division had received after six months in the line.

During my stay I saw such brutality as amazed me. The marines, and I include all but a very few in this charge, appeared to be the victims of some blood mania. I saw men beaten up without any reason—what-ever, horribly beaten up. I saw clubs used on men on the slightest pretext. I saw men forced to do "the Swedish" until they fell from exhaustion, saw them delayed with water and forced to continue. I have had a man beside me through the night, his head bleeding from two or three blows. This man had been clubbed into unconsciousness by one sentry, and when that sentry collected his subordinates, he beat the boy into the corridor again and added a few more blows for his own satisfaction. The boy had given a false name when he was arrested.

"But even worse than these actual brutalities was the attitude which none of the soldiers have mentioned. I saw men who had faced death with a laugh at Toul and Chateau Thierry reduced to cringing, trembling, fearful wretches. They had no chance to fight back. The loss of self-respect to men who had acquitted themselves as heroes, their utter self-abasement under the strain of the always imminent "club" was by all means the most horrible feature in a series of horrors.

"Captain Plintom said that he saw none of these brutalities. I believe him absolutely, for they were not committed in the presence of officers, and any request from a prisoner to see an officer would only draw upon him an avalanche of blows.

"However, there is one officer who knows. He is a captain and a surgeon who had charge of the dressing station in the St. Anne Hotel. When he was fixing up my head one morning (I had received a blow from the club for asking a question with such civility that it approached humility) he said: "My God, it's awful the way they are beating up these boys." The marine sentry was standing beside me, so I never said a word. I knew that I had to go upstairs again.

"Two of the marines stand out in my memory, will always stand out in it. They were Corporal Fredericks and Private Moran. The two were the nearest to me that I ever saw in American uniforms. They used their fists for no reason whatever, and Moran used the club. Fredericks would line the men up and single one out for a beating, while Moran simply attacked anybody who dared look him in the eye.

"I saw Moran call out a youngster named 'Wright' (that's all I know of him), who had given a false name when arrested. He punched him in the face twice and then made the bleeding boy do "the Swedish" for about twenty minutes. After that, Moran kicked him, and told him to get up and stop his "stalling." Six times the boy tried to go on, six times he fell on his face, six times he was kicked and beaten, and finally Moran threw him in bodily on the floor beside me.

"If there is anybody who wants to go on record as being that guy's friend, let him step up and get him a drink of water, said Moran, challenging the room, and then we allowed Wright to remain there unconscious and bleeding, the spirit of all of us too utterly broken to dare Moran's anger. Not until two hours later when Moran was relieved by a young marine called "Blondie Mack" did I venture to ask permission to get some water. Mack gave it to me and I did what I could for Wright, who only prayed to be allowed to die.

"In the light of the same America, we are living in this country, it seems incredible, must seem incredible to the parents of boys who were doing their country's fighting over there. I know that every man I knew came out of that place with murder in his heart, with a blood-lust that no healthy man could have. Fair fight and took his own chances had ever aroused.

"Captain Plintom said that this company did see action. That is true; but it was not until after they had been taken from Paris, and they were in the line but a few weeks. At the time when they were performing their cruelties they had never seen action of any kind, but had been stationed in Paris, where their tailor-made uniforms and neat appearance made them the pride of the officers back of the line—far, far back of the lines.

"It was impossible to learn the names of the marines, or even their victims. Any attempt to question was looked on with suspicion, and among the prisoners it grew to be the habit after a man had received a beating

Engineer Passed By His Signal

Coroner Finds Freight Fatality Caused By Drowsiness of Brickley.

FLAGMAN GAVE EXTRA WARNING

(Bridgeport, August 12.) That the action of Engineer Henry Brickley in passing two signals set against him and driving his train into another freight train at East Portchester, N. Y., on July 31, was due to the drowsiness of the engineer while on duty is the finding of Coroner Phelan made public today.

No witness could be found who actually saw Brickley sleeping, but the witnesses said they observed him reclining back in his seat with his head in a position as if he were sleeping. He was found in that same position after the wreck.

In view of the evidence the coroner finds that Brickley came to his death because of the joint gross negligence of himself and Gates B. Rust, an instructor who was riding in the electric motor and was also killed.

Brickley was 39 years old and lived in New London. On the night of the fatality he drove a freight train from Midway to New Haven and from there an electric motor displaced a steam locomotive. At New Haven Gates B. Rust was placed on the motor as instructor because Brickley was not familiar with the route to New York.

The train was going at a speed of about 20 miles an hour when it passed through Greenwich. It passed a yellow caution signal and a short distance beyond that passed a red signal set at danger. About 700 feet beyond this last signal the train crashed into another freight train on the same track. Brickley and Rust were killed, but there were no other fatalities.

John J. Braz, a flagman from the train which was struck by Brickley's motor, testified that he saw a lantern and shouted as he saw the train coming but the oncoming train did not slacken speed.

CREDIT MEN BLAME PROFITS TAX FOR H. C. L.

New York, Aug. 12.—Declaring that the present excess profits taxes are partially responsible for the high cost of living, the National Association of Credit Men urged to President Wilson, his Cabinet and every member of Congress a strong statement asking for immediate legislation which will do away with the consumption taxes on the necessities of life. The statement, which is headed by H. G. Elliott, chairman of the special war tax advisory committee, has the backing of the 29,500 members of the National Association of Credit Men, comprising the leading manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers and financial institutions in the United States. The appeal for immediate action by Congress declares that there can be no question but that a tax assessed against the business entity has in many instances the effect of causing high prices with resultant higher expenses based on increased cost of living.

DENIES PACKERS OBTAINED ANY SURPLUS STORES

Washington, Aug. 12.—The packers have not purchased millions of dollars' worth of surplus army foodstuffs at from 25 to 50 per cent of the original cost price to the government.

This statement was made last night by an official of the office of the Director of Sales when his attention was called to a statement credited to the New York Department of Markets that the packers have been permitted to gobble up surplus food through the submission of bids at a fraction of the price they charged Uncle Sam originally.

The charge that Swift & Co. repurchased \$15,000,000 worth of foodstuffs, presumably meats, and other packers in proportion, was declared to be absurd. It was pointed out that the auction over the sale of surplus food followed the opening of bids by the packers offering the Government 50 per cent or less for their own products. All of these bids were rejected.

THREE ATTEMPTS TO WRECK CARS IN NEW LONDON

New London, Aug. 13.—Three attempts were made to wreck trolley cars in Montauk avenue this morning. A small piece of iron was wedged in the frog at the crossover near Thames street, that was not noticed by the motorcar, and as a result of the fog on the first trip over the line. It failed to throw the car from the rails. In the later attempts larger iron obstructions were used, but they were observed in time to stop the car. The Shore Line Electric Company has men watching the track to prevent further attempts of that sort.

And yet those two women always greet each other with the most effusive cordiality.

"Yes, each takes pride in showing the other how artistically she can conceal her real feelings.—Exchange.

Official investigation and experiments in Spain have shown the soil of Andalusia to be adapted to cotton raising and that excessive swamps can be reclaimed and utilized.

Pennsylvania—Twenty-fourth district, Louis W. Leibert, Pittsburgh. West Virginia—Sixth district, Judge Vernon C. Champe, Monticony.

COST OF HOTEL ROOMS HIGHER; DRY LAW CAUSE

It May Cost the Public \$500,000,000 More During the Next Year.

WHOLE NATION TO FEEL EFFECT

Soft Drink Bars Do Not Make Money, Hence the Increase in Rents.

New York, Aug. 12.—The Association Opposed to National Prohibition, in a statement issued says Prohibition has caused hotel rates to be increased from \$1 to \$7 per guest per day, and will cost the public approximately \$500,000,000 during the next year. It says an investigation shows that hardly a section of the country escaped the increase of rates since July 1, and that further advances are contemplated by many hotel proprietors.

Edward Tierney, a vice president of the Sevens Hotel Company and managing director of the Hotel Ansonia, is quoted as follows: "There are three sources of hotel revenues, the room, the bar and the restaurant. No money can be made from the restaurant. Therefore, if one of the two sources of actual profit is taken away, then the other source must make up the difference. Therefore, room rates must be increased."

Leonard H. Maack of Chicago, president of the Greeters of America, an association of hotel clerks, told the investigators that the average hotel has not made more than 6 to 10 per cent, gross income for a long time, and that the average net income from 3 to 6 per cent, has been reduced by Prohibition. He said further advances of room rates are contemplated.

The tourist trade in California may be adversely affected by the higher rates forced by Prohibition, according to John F. Shea, secretary of the California Hotel Association.

The report ends as follows: "Much has been written of late about 'soft drink' bars and the profit to be derived therefrom, but the consistent advances in hotel rates shows that the hotel business of the country—valued at more than \$10,000,000,000—has not found them as profitable as the old style bars, even in sections where, through a long 'dry' period, they have found them to be profitable with highly systematized soft drink parlors, roof gardens, cafeterias and old style bars minus the 'kick.'"

PLUMB SCHEME DEMOLISHES ALL CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Washington, Aug. 12.—A. B. Garretson, former head of the Order of Railway Conductors, told the House Interstate Commerce Committee today that operating officials in charge of railroads during government control were actuated by the one desire of demonstrating that government ownership was not best for the country.

"Exactly the same operating force that built up a great surplus before was created this big deficit," Garretson said.

"There could be no real test as to government operation so long as the future disposition of the roads had not been determined. Every effort was made to convince the people that private management was best.

"When the railroad official prays he turns his face to Wall Street but once it is demonstrated for the future management in future will center in Washington, I am sure he will serve the government as earnestly as he served the stockholders in the past."

Discussing the Plumb plan for tripartite control of the roads, Mr. Garretson said it "utterly demolished capital account, while the other plans submitted to Congress added to it until the grand children of the present generation would stagger under the load."

WASHINGTON PAYS FITTING TRIBUTE TO 8,000 HEROES

Washington, Aug. 12.—The National Capital was prepared today to pay fitting tribute to the 8,000 heroes of the Fourth Brigade of Marines, whose gallantry at Chateau Thierry, Belleau Wood and other decisive conflicts has become a tradition of the war, when they swing down the flag Avenue and pass in review before the President. It is their last parade. They will return to Quantico after the review, and tonight many of them will be on their way home, for demobilization of the Fourth Brigade is to begin at once.

The Fourth Brigade yesterday officially reverted to jurisdiction of the Navy Department from that of the War Department.

NO CABINET AS YET

Vienna, Monday, Aug. 11.—(By A. P.) Premier Friedrich of the new Hungarian government has not yet succeeded in completing his cabinet.

DR. RENNER AT VERSAILLES

St. Germain, Aug. 12.—Dr. Karl Renner, Austrian chancellor and head of the peace delegation, arrived here today from Vienna.

Drop More N.H. Road Trains

Non-Perishable Food Embargo Was Lifted By Road Last Night.

SHIPMENTS OF PAPER ALLOWED

Boston, Aug. 12.—Confidence that the end of the mechanics' strike and the consequent resumption of normal service on the New England railroad would be brought about within a few days was expressed by railroad officials here today.

Strike leaders would make no comment on the action of the shippers in Manchester and Nashua, N. H., as to returning to work, other than to declare that the men will not be a body and that there will be no return before Saturday, if a majority of other locals took a similar stand.

Under the baling arrangement the real sentiment of the men will not be known definitely until Friday when the results of all the New England voting will be reported at a joint meeting here of the locals' executive boards.

New York, Aug. 12.—Passenger service into New York over lines of the New York, New Haven & Hartford R. R. today was unchanged, and it was said that the public was appearing in the streets in better conditions. Commuters continued to crowd all local trains but other travelers are using the Sound boats wherever it is possible and the congestion on the railroad has been relieved.

Service on the Harlem River branch of the line has been resumed, the shutting off of these trains on Sunday having been due to the enormous holiday rush which made operation impracticable.

The embargo on non-perishable foodstuffs for human consumption and feed for live stock was lifted last night and they may now be shipped over the lines of the company.

GAMBLING IS ON INCREASE IN GERMANY

Papers Regard Bad Nauheim As a Second Monte Carlo.

Frankfurt on Main, July 30.—Gambling is on the increase throughout Germany to an alarming extent, according to German newspapers. This is said to be due partly to the high living of individuals who made fortunes during the war by government contracts, and partly to the fact that the German government has been running day and night for some time and the German newspapers refer to the place as a second Monte Carlo.

Regarding conditions at Bad Nauheim, the Frankfurter Zeitung recently declared:

"The demoralizing effect of the three gambling resorts erected in Bad Nauheim during the period of the soldiers' council now is seen in its grossest form. Following the scene of a week ago when a summer guest drew his revolver in the center of the gambling hall at the Villa Heilmann after losing 30,000 marks in an hour, another guest, said to be from Frankfurt, was found murdered in one of the parks.

The investigating committee summoned from Glessen ascertained that the murder had been committed by a soldier who had lost 30,000 marks in 70,000 marks at the "club 1919" in the Grand hotel on the night he was killed. On the way to his quarters he was shot in the back and all his money stolen.

The Bristol hotel it is said that a German woman recently lost 35,000 marks by gambling, and could not pay her hotel bill, so that she was obliged to auction her clothing and valuables. Another man from Frankfurt lost 50,000 marks on Sunday afternoon at the Villa Heilmann and a few days before another guest lost as much as 700,000 marks."

DR. V. H. PARKER HAS ANNOUNCED CONVENTION DATE

New York, Aug. 12.—A social hygiene conference of representatives from the various state leagues of women voters and of state suffrage associations is to be held in New York city during the week of October 17-24. It was announced today by Dr. Valeria H. Parker, of Hartford, Conn., who was appointed national chairman of the social hygiene committee of the League of Women Voters at its first national convention in St. Louis last April.

The October conference will coincide with the important convention on morality called by the war work council of the Young Women's Christian Association.

"It is imperative that the gain in moral standards made in the United States during the war should not be lost," said Dr. Parker, "and that weaknesses that have become evident in dealing with the social evil should be corrected, when the government program is applied to civilian work. Law enforcement, sex education and increased provision of supervised recreational facilities are the three important factors to be considered."

SOLDIERS WHO RISKED LIVES TO FIND FEVER CURE GET NO REWARD

CONGRESSMEN BLAME HIVES ON PROHIBITION

Washington, Aug. 12.—One of the reasons given by a member of Congress for the desire of the members to get back home for a few weeks is the epidemic of hives which has broken out in the House. It is no unusual sight to see a member with his back up against a post in the cloak room scratching away for all he is worth.

"Everybody is scratching," said the Congressman, "and it all comes from this damned prohibition. Nobody even got the hives in the days when we had a bar here and could go down and get a 'Tom Collins' or a mint julep when the weather was warm. Now we have to drink lemonade, and my doctor told me that the excess of citrus fruit in the lemonade is undoubtedly responsible for the hives."

"Did you ever hear of a fellow getting the hives from drinking a glass of beer? No, never. Well, there you are. The worst of the goldurned hives is that they have located right over the back of the members' heads. Look at 'em. Looks as if Congress will have to appropriate some money for Chinese back scratchers if we have to stay here for the rest of the summer."

SCALE EXPERTS WEIGHING COAL SAVED STRIKE

The Government Bureau of Standards in Washington is best known everywhere as a high court of appeal on the fairness of commercial scales. Thomas H. Ezzell tells us in Everybody's for August that "during the coal famine of 1917, when the Eastern states were threatened by a threatened strike of five thousand miners in the Cumberland coal fields because they believed that they were being cheated of their pay by inaccurate scales, the Bureau's scale experts saved the day."

"Loading two trucks with scale-testing machinery they sped to the coal fields. Miners and operators had agreed to accept their findings. Five out of the six scales were found to be inaccurate. The errors in favor of the mine-owners, totalled in several instances hundreds of pounds to the ton.

"The strike was averted; indictments were brought against the owners; fines were levied and the coal robbed from the miners were returned to them. In this direct way scientific standards paid dividends to the people."

AGAINST GIVING ASYLUM TO KUN LATE DICTATOR

Berlin, Monday, Aug. 11.—(By A. P.) Governmental discussion of whether Bela Kun, the erstwhile Bolshevik dictator of Hungary, should be accorded asylum in Austria or be delivered to the first country demanding him for trial according to advances received here from the American press. It is said that sentiment is decidedly against granting him asylum.

Plans for a coalition cabinet at Budapest appear further from solution than ever since the declaration of Paul Sarrault, Socialist leader, to participate in a government having a Hapsburg at its head. Premier Friedrich has announced that the National Assembly will convene within eight weeks. He says that it will meet on a basis of a republican state but M. Kovacs, who has been named for a post in the Department of Instruction, has declared that the form of the Hungarian Government will be decided on only after his arrival in Budapest from Switzerland.

He is said to agree thoroughly with the views of the American Socialist leader, who is also on his way home from Switzerland and who is urging the formation of a Democratic Liberal Cabinet in which the whole national strength could be concentrated.

TROLLEYMEN STRIKING FOR HIGHER WAGES

Bradford, Pa., Aug. 12.—Two hundred employees in the mechanical and operating departments of the Western New York and Pennsylvania Traction Company struck today for higher wages and improved working conditions, following a conference at Olean, N. Y., with company officials. The trolley system, which is about 100 miles long, connects Bradford and Shinglehouse, Pa., Olean, Salamanca, Little Valley and Lodi, N. Y.

MEXICO HAS ARMY STRENGTH OF 119,392 MEN

Mexico City, Aug. 12.—The strength of the Mexican army is placed at 17,735 officers and 119,392 men.

There are two generals of division, eleven generals of brigade, forty-eight brigadiers and 843 jefes (chiefs) whose ranks have been recognized by the government as permanent. There are, however, 14,461 generals, chiefs and subordinate officers who are serving temporarily.

Had Been Promised High Honors and Compensation—Nine Bridgeport Boys Among Those Who, It Is Charged Were Misled

(Bridgeport, August 12.) Promised the Distinguished Service Medal and other high honors and rewards by government officers if they volunteered to subject themselves to trench fever inoculations, it is charged that Connecticut soldiers, among them being nine Bridgeport youths, after sacrificing their health for the welfare of the army, were left to shift for themselves, given no adequate compensation and discharged from the army unworried.

It is alleged by Harry Worley, son of a New Milford publisher, that many of the soldiers—they all belonged to the Yankee Division, have, since their discharge, suffered a relapse of the disease. At least one of the soldiers, John Elliano of this city, has been compelled to seek treatment at St. Vincent's hospital.

This is corroborated by Dr. D. M. Treacartin of 881 Lafayette street, acting assistant surgeon for the Connecticut District of the United States public health service. According to Dr. Treacartin, Elliano was taken to the hospital July 21 on account of a recurrence of trench fever.

He ran a high temperature but his condition improved to such an extent on July 29 as to permit his discharge from the hospital. He is under observation by Dr. Treacartin and Major M. S. Smith, director of the United States public health service for the district including Connecticut. The former said that the fever was still in Elliano's system, but that it might wear out in time. The government says he is only 10 per cent disabled.

Of the 60 soldiers who volunteered to submit to the inoculations the following, with Elliano, are from Bridgeport: Vernon M. Peck, 150 Elmwood avenue; Frederick P. Hill, 315 Pembroke street; William J. Murphy, 301 Sullivan street; Horace P. Lucas, 353 Clinton avenue; Albert P. Noren, 63 Morehouse street; David P. Turner and John Vassell, addresses unknown.

LEAGUE DRAFT COMBINATION OF ALL ALLES PLANS

Legal Adviser to Committee At Versailles Testifies.

SMUTS IDEA BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION

Miller Never Heard of New York Lawyers Making Plan.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The plan for a League of Nations used as a basis of discussion at Versailles was not in any of the drafts submitted by the United States, Great Britain, France or Italy, but was combination of all them, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was told today by David Hunter Miller, legal adviser to the League of Nations Committee at Versailles.

Chairman Lodge said President Wilson had told the committee at the White House in March that the British plan drawn by General Smuts was used as a basis of consideration, but the witness protested that such was not his recollection. The plan taken as a basis of discussion, said he, "was modeled to some extent on the other plans, but it was not the Smuts plan."

The witness said he had submitted memoranda on the American plan but did not see the finished product until it was printed in the form transmitted to the committee yesterday by President Wilson.

"Where did the plan come from?" asked Senator Lodge.

"I suppose it came from the President."

"What became of it?"

"I think it was submitted to the commission on the League of Nations. I didn't personally have anything to do with it."

Questioned by Senator Brandegee, Republican, Connecticut, Mr. Miller said he was a law partner of Gordon Auchincloss, son-in-law of Colonel E. M. House, one of the American delegates to the peace conference.

"Did you have any experience in international affairs, in drafting treaties?" asked Senator Lodge.

"Not prior to my appointment as a special assistant in the State Department, shortly after the United States entered the war."

Mr. Miller said he never had heard of any plan for a League drafted by New York lawyers and taken to Paris by the President.

Senator Brandegee asked "as of what date" the "territorial integrity" mentioned under Article Ten of the covenant was to be guaranteed.

"I understand the boundaries of nations are guaranteed primarily as they existed at the signing of the treaty and secondarily as they may be changed under the treaty by peace conferences."